Nixon Delays His Miami Arrival

By Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson

MIAMI BEACH—Richard Nixon is so confident of emerging the winner that he's told aides he won't come to Miami until Tuesday. His aides, with equal confidence, or perhaps braggadocio, are predicting that Nixon will win by the time the roll call of states reaches Tennessee.

Meanwhile, Nixon is on the telephone personally directing every move made by his henchmen. They don't book an extra suite of rooms at the Hilton Plaza hotel, where Nixon's headquarters are, without calling the boss in New York. They are cool, calculating, confident, and so is their boss in his law offices high above downtown Manhattan.

You would never guess from their conversation that the biggest handicap Nixon has had to overcome is the sickening fear among rank-and-file Republicans that "Nixon can't win." It results from the memory of that disastrous 1962 defeat when he ran for Governor of California, and that terrible display of temper at the press conference that followed in which he castigated California newspapers.

The whispered reminder that Nixon is a two-time loser and won the Vice Presidency only when he traveled piggyback on Gen. Eisenhower's broad shoulders is the most serious obstacle Nixon has to erase. His cohorts in Miami are doing a pretty good job of making people forget about it.

It's illustrated when you land at the airport. Gov. Rockefeller has pretty girls covered with "Rocky" buttons out to meet the delegates. But they don't know who the delegates are and look prettily at every arrival.

In contrast, Nixon has two of his men meet every plane. There are no girls to kiss new arrivals, no bands playing. But the two henchmen do have a list of delegates, pick the right men and announce "we have a car waiting for you."

En route to the hotel the delegates are romanced for Nixon.

Secret Ammunition

Both Rockefeller and Nixon cherish as their most guarded possessions a file of every delegate and such pertinent information as who their bankers are, how much money they owe, the size of mortgage on their home. This intelligence can be highly useful when the chips are down.

Rockfeller's statistics are kept in a black book with a lock on it. Nixon's are kept in carefully guarded files.

Nixon's operation gives the impression of professional smoothness. Rockefeller has stirred up the visitors in the living room, but Nixon has the delegates pledged in the back room. And it's in the back rooms the final decisions are going to be made.

Rockefeller's cohorts are trying to do another Wendell Willkie, recalling the so-called "Barefoot Boy of Wall Street" who took the 1940 Republican Convention by storm.

However, what most people don't know is that the Willkie strategy was planned well in advance. The Rockefellers know it, however, for their economic empire helped to plan it. Week's before the convention, the Chase Bank, controlled by the Rockefeller family, was giving the word to GOP delegates to go for Willkie.

In the current race, significantly, Rockefeller has not permitted the power of his family fortune to be used. He used it for Eisenhower against Taft in the 1952 convention. The big Eastern money of Republican Party made some remarkable converts for Ike at the last minute, as witness the conversion of the Pennsylvania delegation. They arrived in Chicago pledged to Taft. But after Gov. John Fine received a call from Ben Fairless of U.S. Steel, they switched to Ike.

However, Nelson has given orders that this is not to be done for him. The use of the Rockefeller family fortune could mean the difference in the voting next week, but the Chase Manhattan Bank and Standard Oil of N.J. are being kept carefully on the sidelines.

Never Such Security

You hear lots of rumors about tight security at Miami Beach. They are understatements. Never has a political convention been so tightly guarded, never have tickets and badges been so carefully given out. Tickets are coded and the numbers on the tickets are being changed every day. Fluorescent ink has been used to prevent counterfeiting.

An extra contingent of Secret Service agents and FBI men has been imported and they are living aboard a ship. Together with the Miami police, they have opened all manholes, checked on Cuban exiles in Miami, and imported enough arms to start an insurrection. The arsenal includes combat vests, mace, signal equipment and ammunition.

There are special restrictions inside the three hotels occupied by the candidates—the Hilton Plaza, Americana, where Rocky's headquarters are located, and the Deauville, which houses Ronald Reagan's headquarters.

Each candidate, however, will sleep at a private home, the identity of which is kept strictly secret.

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Drew Pearson will predict whether Nixon will win the GOP nomination on the first ballot over Radio WTOP at 6:40 p.m. today.